

Martina Simeti

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Mimosa Echard. *Un bout de toi, Salomon*

20 September – 11 November
Appointment recommended

Opening Sunday 20 September, 3–7 pm.

From 20 September to 11 November 2020, Martina Simeti presents *Un bout de toi, Salomon*, the first solo show to be held in Italy by the French artist Mimosa Echard (France, 1986).

Mimosa Echard's artistic practice explores both biological and artificial processes, diving into the contradictions of our contemporary aspirations. Endless lists of materials accompany her works. The artist plays with the coupling of dichotomies – form and the formless, the artefact and the organic, fluids and solids – reconciling and giving voice to a fractured universe.

In this exhibition project designed especially for the gallery, the artist presents a new series of human-sized sculpture-containers which, given their transparency, display tubular shapes within them, intertwined to form large spirals. They stand majestically, as if they were “gateways evoking a sense of transcendence, in a very physical scale, being that of the human body.” This is how they are described by Mimosa Echard herself in a conversation with the artist Gaia Vincensini as part of the dialogues featured in the project *The Form of a Conversation** promoted by Martina Simeti.

As always in Mimosa Echard's work, the body plays a key role. There's an inside and an outside and a limit to be crossed, unfolding amid membranes wrapped around themselves like intestines, filled with a variety of solids and liquids: medicinal plants, small objects both precious and common, in osmosis between one another, “forced to cohabitate,” trapped in a visceral and dizzying composition. “I tell myself a lot of stories with what I use,” says the artist, referring to the range of plants and objects that make up her works, creating a sort of chaos to be reordered.

Completing the installation, a blood-red lampshade hangs from the ceiling, reminiscent of the curtain (*Blood*) by Felix Gonzalez-Torres and the universe familiar to the artist.

In Echard's work, there is an “aesthetic, emotional or amorous excitement” which the artist refers to the '70s psychedelic climate of the village in the Cévennes where she grew up in a small self-run community which still serves as the key source of inspiration and materials for her research.

* *The Form of a Conversation* is a format which emerged during the lockdown, rooted in the sense of absence with a view to fostering contacts, exchanges and connections. Pairings of artists who collaborate or who have collaborated with the gallery offer a reflection on narrative forms and the objectivisation of identity. Each of their dialogues gave rise to a work issued in a limited edition which materialises each conversation, turning it into a visual object.